

# MARSHAL MATTERS MARCH 2022 EDITION



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## Marshal's Minute-State Fire Marshal Matt Perez



National Volunteer Week is recognized during the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of April. In Illinois, over 70 percent of the fire service is made up of volunteer departments and firefighters. These men and women sacrifice time with their families and friends to train and respond to help members of their communities during emergencies. Departments across the state are struggling to keep their rosters full of dedicated individuals who are willing to answer the call. Ask yourself these questions: Do you have a desire to help someone? Do you have the desire to learn and answer the call when it comes in? Do you enjoy being a part of a family of brothers and sisters who have each other's backs? If you answered yes to any of these questions, consider reaching out to

your local fire department or district in your community and see if they are looking for volunteers. They will provide you with the equipment and training that you need to be ready when the call comes in. There is nothing more rewarding than being able to serve and protect the community that you call home.

April is Stress Awareness Month, and our first responders find themselves in stressful situations, multiple times daily, then have to deal with stressful situations at home. According to the American Institute of Stress, long-term stress can prove to be more than just a mental issue. These issues can range from headaches to stomach disorders to depression – even very serious issues like stroke and heart disease can come as a result of stress. Common reactions to a stressful event can include:

- Disbelief, shock and numbness
- Feeling sad, frustrated and helpless
- Difficulty concentrating and making decisions
- Headaches, back pains and stomach problems
- Smoking or the use of alcohol or drugs

It's important to find healthy ways to cope with everyday stress that we deal with so we can live happy and healthy lives. It's important that when you set goals, the vision for healthy living is obtainable. Remember, this is all about personal growth and living a healthier life both physically and mentally.

The OSFM has put links on our website to resources that can help you stay healthy and active while finding ways to deal with stress or other mental issues. You find these resources here:

<https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/sfm/Resources/Pages/First-Responder-Resiliency-Mental-Health-Resources.aspx>

## Employee Spotlight



## Natasha Ahmed

### Human Resources Associate

**Where are you originally from?** I am both Pakistani and American and have lived in both countries.

**Tell us about your family? Kids, Significant other?** I am the eldest of 3 siblings in a close-knit family. My brother is a junior at SIU Carbondale, my sister is an L&D nurse in St. Louis, MO, and my mom has worked at Child Support for over 20 years. My partner was born and raised in Springfield/Cantrall and our mothers have actually been best friends

since they were 12 years old! No kids yet. For now, I have two very demanding orange cats who have been with me for over 11 years.

**Favorite food(s)?** My mom's home-cooked chicken biryani.

**Hobbies?** Camping, hiking, kayaking, attending live EDM shows, yoga, sewing, painting, hoarding cats, and more!

**What's your favorite movie or book?** Battle Royale (the translated version from the original Japanese) is one of the best books I have ever read.

**When you get in the car what type of music will be coming out of your speakers?** Anything from one of EDM's many subgenres.

**What did you want to be when you were a kid?** A teacher.

**What's your favorite part of the job?** My coworkers! 😊

**What's something unique about you?** I used to own an Etsy shop where I sold handmade, custom sock monkeys, sock cats and rabbits, and other stuffed toys. My grandma taught me how to sew when I was 3 years old.

**Where is your favorite place to vacation?** Anywhere with a beach and/or lots of interesting places to explore.

**Where is your bucket list destination?** I have a long list, and at the top is Costa Rica!



## Deputy Director Alix Armstead



*Deputy Director Alix Armstead is leaving the OSFM after nearly 11 years of service as of Friday, April 8<sup>th</sup>.*

*Alix started as the Deputy General Council before moving and serving as Deputy Director of the agency. He has been instrumental in spearheading the DEI efforts of the agency and a leader in the DEI efforts amongst the Illinois Fire Service community. His leadership and passion for his work shined on a daily basis.*

*The OSFM thanks Deputy Director Alix Armstead for his service and commitment to the OSFM! We wish him well in his future endeavors!*



## Jim Plunket Remembered



*Jim Plunket passed away on March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Jim worked in fire service for over 30 years, including 17 years as a Lombard firefighter and paramedic. He was hired by the Lombard Fire Department in 1979 and was promoted to Lieutenant in 1987. He retired in 1996 but returned in 1997 to serve as the Public Education Coordinator... a role he was extraordinarily passionate about. James was instrumental in starting the Public Education program, educating Lombardians of all ages on fire safety. He was a volunteer at the Belmont Fire Department, was a Trustee at Darien/Woodridge Fire Department.*

*Jim was very active in the juvenile firesetters program and a staple at the fire services safety tent during the Illinois State Fair. Rest easy, we will take it from here and continue to honor your legacy by teaching fire safety to the younger generation.*





## Mt. Olive FF Scheller 50 Years of Service



*Left to Right: OSFM's Joe Holomy, Firefighter Wilbert (Willy) Scheller, Mt. Olive Chief Donnie Nowell*



*The Mt. Olive Volunteer Fire Department held a special ceremony celebrating 50 years of service for FF Willy Scheller. Chief Joe Holomy from the OSFM was in attendance to celebrate and presented Willy with a plaque. Thanks, Willy, for your dedication and service over the past half century!*

## Women's History Month



**CELEBRATES  
WOMEN'S  
HISTORY  
MONTH**

*The OSFM celebrated Women's History Month in March. According to a report from NFPA, in 2018 females made up less than 10 percent of the fire service in the U.S. When you break those numbers down, only 4% of the career firefighters and only 11% of volunteer firefighters are women. We visited with a few individuals who talk about their unique journey to the fire service.*

*Women in Fire is an interactive non-profit network. This organization provides education, support and advocacy for fire service women. You can check out what they have to offer by visiting their website: <https://www.womeninfire.org/>*

**INTERNATIONAL  
WOMEN'S  
DAY | MARCH 8**

The OSFM Celebrates  
International Women's Day

Thanks to all the ladies of  
the OSFM for your  
leadership!



## Women's History Month



*Findlay Fire Protection District Volunteer Firefighter/EMT Sandy talks about her 18 years of experience as a firefighter/EMT during Women's History Month.*

<https://youtu.be/5h-AWPOIZ5I>



*Westchester Firefighter/Paramedic Kate O'Brien talks about her family's history in the fire service and how she hopes to make her kids proud. She also provides some great advice for anyone looking to make the fire service their career choice.*

[https://youtu.be/OJHFal\\_qDq4](https://youtu.be/OJHFal_qDq4)



*Marsha Giesler talks about her unique journey to the fire service and the wonderful memories teaching fire safety. Marsha also provides some great advice when it comes to choosing the right career for you.*

[https://youtu.be/7CYlBqyk\\_qY](https://youtu.be/7CYlBqyk_qY)



## Fallen Firefighter/Medal of Honor Ceremony



*The 29th Annual Illinois Fallen Firefighter Memorial and Firefighter Medal of Honor Awards Ceremony will take place on Tuesday, May 10th. The Fallen Firefighter Memorial service will be held at the firefighter memorial on the grounds of the Illinois State Capitol beginning at 10 AM.*

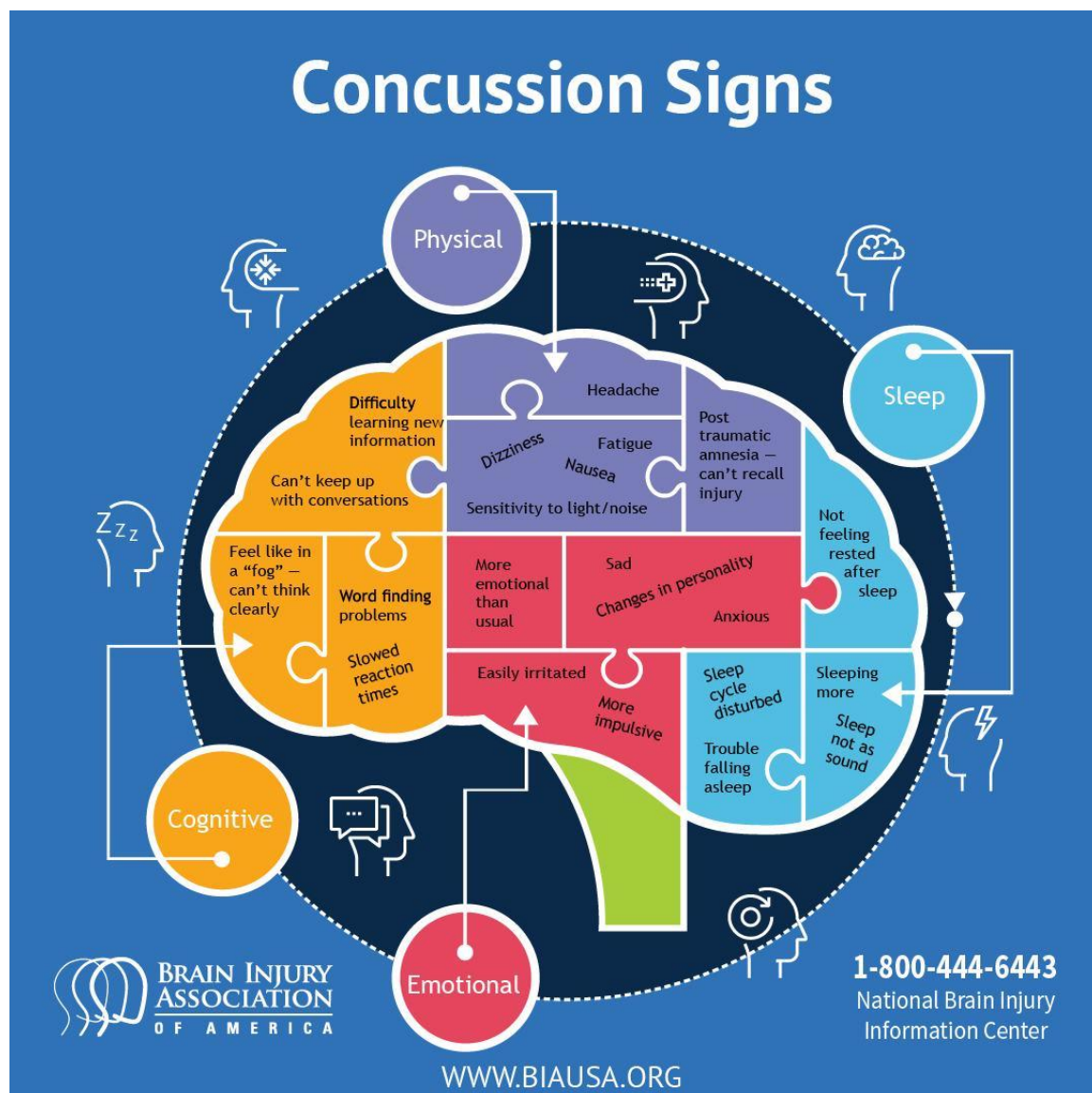
*Following the ceremony at the capitol, the Medal of Honor Ceremony will take place at the Bank of Springfield Center.*



## Brain Injury Awareness Month

March is Brain Injury Awareness Month. According to the Brain Injury Association of America, there are more than 5.3 million individuals in the United States who are living with a permanent brain injury-related disability. That's one in every 60 people! At least 2.8 million people sustain a traumatic brain injury (TBI) each year. Brain injuries are the leading cause of death and disability in the U.S. Nearly half of all these injuries (47.9%) are caused by falls, 17.1 % are from being struck by or against something, 13.2% are from motor vehicle accidents, 8.3% are from assaults and 13.2% are from other or unknown sources.

Don't ignore the signs of a head or neck injury, go get checked out by a doctor!



**YFSI Madison Class**

# Youth Firesetter Intervention Class

The Madison Fire Department is pleased to announce they will be hosting a Youth Firesetter Intervention Program class for the Office of the State Fire Marshal.

**THIS IS A WEEKEND CLASS**

**Date & Time:** **Saturday**, May 21, and **Sunday**, May 22, 2022

**Saturday:** 8:30 am to 4:00 pm

**Sunday:** 8:30 am to 3:00 pm

**Place:** **Madison Fire Department**  
Training Center  
1800 3<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Madison, IL 62060

If you would like to register for this training, please click here:

<https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/sfm/Events/Pages/Youth-Firesetter-Interventionist-Class.aspx>

There is a fee of \$100 per student for this class. Please make the check payable to the Office of the State Fire Marshal, and mail it to the Office, prior to the training date.

Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal  
Arson Division – YFSIP  
1035 Stevenson Drive  
Springfield, IL 62703

For further information, please feel free to call me at (217) 415-7206, or email me [Simony.Weyforth@illinois.gov](mailto:Simony.Weyforth@illinois.gov).

We are looking forward to seeing you in Madison!

**Simony Weyforth**

Youth Fire Setter Program Coordinator





**YFSI Calumet City Class**

# Youth Firesetter Intervention Class

The Calumet City Fire Department is pleased to announce they will be hosting a Youth Firesetter Intervention Program class for the Office of the State Fire Marshal.

Here is the training information:

**Date & Time:** Thursday, June 2, and Friday, June 3, 2022

**Monday:** 8:30 am to 4:00 pm

**Tuesday:** 8:30 am to 3:00 pm

**Place:** **Calumet City Fire Department**  
Training Center  
24 State Street  
Calumet City, IL 60409

If you would like to register for this training, please click here

<https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/sfm/Events/Pages/Calumet-City-Youth-Firesetter-Intervention-Class.aspx>

This class is limited to **25** due to the current COVID-19 distancing safety measures.

There is a fee of \$100 per student for this class. Please make the check payable to the Office of the State Fire Marshal, and mail it to the Office, prior to the training date.

Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal  
Arson Division – YFSIP  
1035 Stevenson Drive  
Springfield, IL 62703

For further information, please feel free to call me at (217) 415-7206, or email me [Simony.Weyforth@illinois.gov](mailto:Simony.Weyforth@illinois.gov).

We are looking forward to seeing you in Calumet City!

**Simony Weyforth**  
Youth Fire Setter Program Coordinator



**YFSI Charleston Class**

# Youth Firesetter Intervention Class

The Charleston Fire Department is pleased to announce they will be hosting a Youth Firesetter Intervention Program class for the Office of the State Fire Marshal.

Here is the training information:

**Date & Time:** Wednesday, September 14, and Thursday, September 15, 2022

**Wednesday:** 8:30 am to 4:00 pm

**Thursday:** 8:30 am to 3:00 pm

**Place:** Charleston Police & Fire Training Facility  
1251 W. Madison  
Charleston, IL 61920

If you would like to register for this training, please click here:

<https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/sfm/Events/Pages/Youth-Firesetter-Interventionist-Class-Charleston.aspx>

This class is limited to **20** due to the current COVID-19 distancing safety measures.

There is a fee of \$100 per student for this class. Please make the check payable to the Office of the State Fire Marshal, and mail it to the Office, prior to the training date.

Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal  
Arson Division – YFSIP  
1035 Stevenson Drive  
Springfield, IL 62703

For further information, please feel free to call me at (217) 415-7206, or email me [Simony.Weyforth@illinois.gov](mailto:Simony.Weyforth@illinois.gov).

We are looking forward to seeing you in Charleston!

**Simony Weyforth**  
Youth Fire Setter Program Coordinator



## NFIRS Week 2022


The U.S. Fire Administration hosted the second annual National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) Week March 14-17. This year the focus was on State NFIRS Program Managers and their role in the success of this program. Daily webinars were held ranging from account management to data warehouse reports and benefits of this system.

The OSFM found these top 5 most common mistakes when completing NFIRS reporting.

1. Improper Reporting of Fire Deaths
2. Bulk Import Utility Issues
3. Improperly reporting Mutual or Auto Aid
4. Incident Type Code
5. Not Verifying Compliance

The OSFM encourages all departments to stay NFIRS compliant and double check to make sure their reports are accurate and up to date! Having incomplete data or missing data can prevent you from being able to receive a grant from the OSFM or a federal grant. You can find if your department is compliant by visiting our website:

<https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/sfm/SFMDocuments/Documents/NFIRSComplianceReport.pdf#search=NFIRS%20Compliance>

 <b>U.S. Fire Administration</b> National Fire Incident Reporting System		<b>Second Annual NFIRS Week</b> <b>(Zoom Webinars)</b> Mar. 14-17, 2022, 1-2 p.m. Mar. 18, 1-3 p.m.
Join State NFIRS Program Managers across the county to understand your role in the success of the National Fire Incident Reporting System.		
<b>MON</b>	<b>Account Management</b> This session will discuss NFIRS account management and ways the state program managers can assist their fire departments with access to NFIRS tools.	Zoom: <a href="https://fema.zoomgov.com/j/1614263370">https://fema.zoomgov.com/j/1614263370</a> • Meeting ID: 161 426 3370 Passcode: 583782 • +15512851373,1614263370# US
<b>TUE</b>	<b>Import File Processing</b> (getting your data into the system) This session will address the process for departments to get data into the NFIRS.	Zoom: <a href="https://fema.zoomgov.com/j/1600313973">https://fema.zoomgov.com/j/1600313973</a> • Meeting ID: 160 031 3973 Passcode: 660879 • +15512851373,1600313973# US
<b>WED</b>	<b>Common Critical Errors</b> (and how to address them) This session will discuss common errors seen with the import of NFIRS data and how the user can address them.	Zoom: <a href="https://fema.zoomgov.com/j/1604771115">https://fema.zoomgov.com/j/1604771115</a> • Meeting ID: 160 477 1115 (Passcode: 743479) • +15512851373,1604771115# US
<b>THU</b>	<b>Data Warehouse reports</b> (running reports, AFG + Dashboard show-and-tell) This session will discuss the Data Warehouse and new reports available to the users.	Zoom: <a href="https://fema.zoomgov.com/j/1614652272">https://fema.zoomgov.com/j/1614652272</a> • Meeting ID: 161 465 2272 (Passcode: 470235) • +15512851373,1614652272# US
<b>FRI</b>	<b>Benefits of NFIRS</b> (speakers/tentative list) • Adam Thiel (Philadelphia) • Joe Powers (Charlottesville) • Dr. Lori Moore-Merrell (U.S. Fire Administrator) This session will wrap up the week of NFIRS state program management with two keynote presentations from two fire service professionals who have successfully used NFIRS data for their communities. The week and session will conclude with a wrap-up with the Fire Administrator.	Zoom: <a href="https://fema.zoomgov.com/j/1611545163">https://fema.zoomgov.com/j/1611545163</a> • Meeting ID: 161 154 5163 (Passcode: 622417) • +15512851373,1611545163# US





## Severe Weather Preparedness Week



### Awareness & Preparedness

#### Watch vs. Warning

Weather Forecast Office  
Tallahassee, FL

#### TORNADO / SEVERE THUNDERSTORM **WATCH**

- Conditional are **favorable** for severe thunderstorms / tornadoes
- Issued by SPC, last 3 to 6 hours

#### TORNADO / SEVERE THUNDERSTORM **WARNING**

- Conditions are **occurring** or about to occur
- Issued by local NWS office, last 30-60 minutes



**WATCH THE SKY!**



**TAKE ACTION!!!**

#SeverePrep

f t y NWS Tallahassee

weather.gov/tallahassee

Severe Weather Preparedness Week in Illinois is February 28th through March 4th. This week serves as a reminder for residents to review their family's communication plan, create or review your severe weather plan, build an emergency kit or inspect your current kit, identify your severe weather shelter, and understand weather terminology.

A weather radio is the most reliable way to receive warnings about severe weather. It's important that you not only have a weather radio but have multiple ways to receive a warning such as a cell phone or a portable AM/FM radio.

Keep these four words in mind; Plan, Practice, Monitor and Act!

**Plan:** Hold a family meeting and review or create a severe weather plan. Locate your safe place in a storm.

**Practice:** Hold a severe weather drill. Walk through your plan and take everyone to your designated shelter.

**Monitor:** When severe weather is in the forecast or a watch is issued, make sure someone in the home is the designated weather watcher. Pay attention to the weather.

**ACT:** When a warning is issued, it's time to ACT. Put your plan into action and move your family to your designated shelter



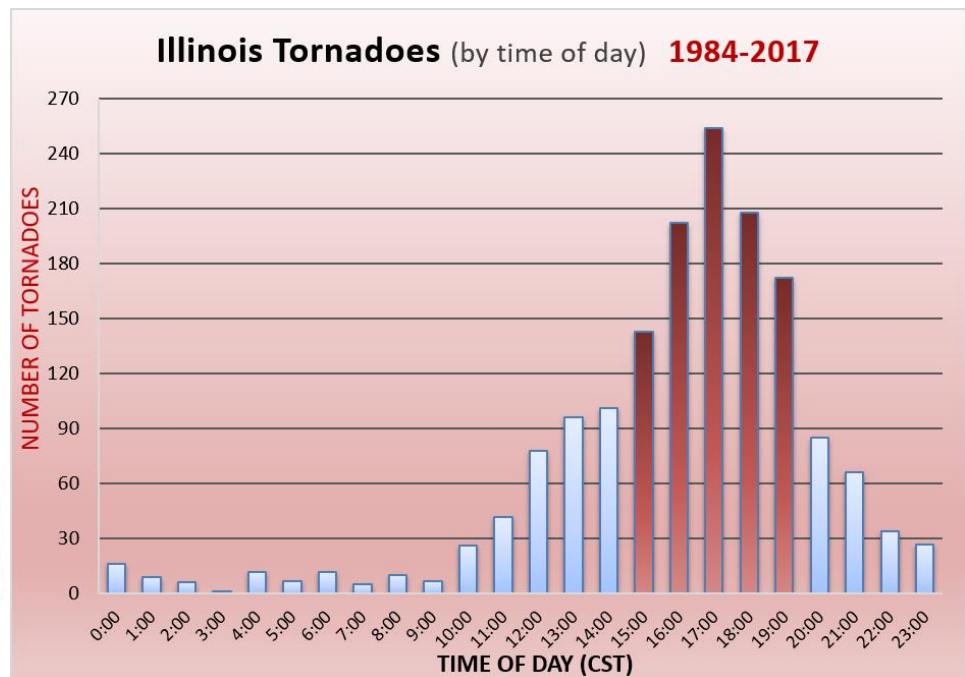
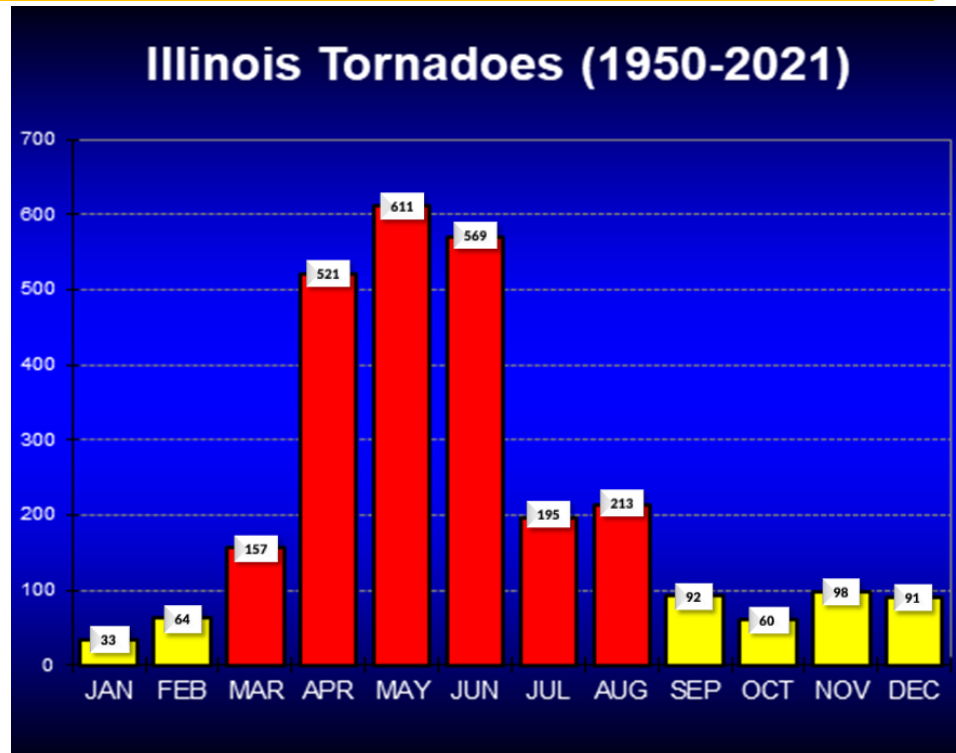
## Severe Weather Preparedness Week

*Tornadoes can occur here in Illinois any time of the year and at any time of the day. That is why it is so important that we are prepared in the event of severe weather.*

*You can find a guide to help prepare you for severe weather by visiting:*

<https://www2.illinois.gov/iema/Preparedness/Documents/severeweatherpreparedness.pdf>

**Don't Be  
Scared, Be  
Prepared!**





## Flood Safety Week



*Flood Safety Awareness Week is March 14<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>. The goals of Flood Safety Awareness Week are to: inform the public about NWS forecast and warning services and flood information, heighten public awareness to risks associated with all types of floods, and empower citizens to take actions necessary to protect their lives and their livelihoods.*

*It only takes 6" of fast-moving water to knock over and carry away an adult and 18-24" of fast-moving water to carry away most large SUV's, vans and trucks. Remember this saying, Turn Around Don't Drown. If you encounter a flooded roadway, turn around and find an alternate route.*

*To learn more about flood safety visit:*

*<https://www.weather.gov/safety/flood>*

Flood Warning	Flood Watch
<p>Water is <b>overflowing onto normally dry land</b>, or will overflow soon. Flooding is a longer term event than flash flooding and <b>may last days or weeks</b>.</p> <p><b>Move</b> to higher ground, and <b>never drive</b> through flooded roads.</p>	<p>Conditions are <b>favorable</b> for water to overflow normally dry land.</p> <p><b>Stay tuned</b> to radio/TV, follow <a href="https://www.weather.gov">weather.gov</a>, and be ready to seek higher ground.</p> <p>Learn more at <a href="https://www.weather.gov/flood">weather.gov/flood</a>.</p>
<p><b>Take Action.</b>  <a href="https://www.weather.gov/safety/flood">weather.gov/safety/flood</a></p>	<p><b>Be Prepared.</b></p>





## Donated Fire Engine



*The Greater Round Lake Fire Protection District donated a fire engine to the Cairo Auxiliary Fire Department using the OSFM's Fire Equipment Exchange Portal. This engine replaces a 1978 Ford Pierce that isn't running at this time. According to Chief Turner, the department continues in its rebuilding stage and this engine has really lifted the spirit of the volunteers!*

*- Greater Round Lake Fire Protection District Chief Greg Formica talks about what this means for his department to be able to donate an engine to help out the Cairo Auxiliary Fire Dept in southern Illinois:*

<https://youtu.be/xxzj1LO-Fzs>

*-Cairo Aux Fire Chief Mike Turner talks about what this donation means for the department and the unique history of the department in this video:*

<https://youtu.be/pGBL8wm4rZk>



## QFO School Inspection Class



# OSFM

## PUBLIC SCHOOL INSPECTION CLASS

### WHEN

**May 3, 2022**  
**8:30 am to 12:30 pm**

### WHERE

**Office of the Illinois State Fire  
Marshal**  
**1035 Stevenson Drive**  
**Springfield, IL 62703**

### Additional Information

<https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/sfm/About/Divisions/Pre-Prevention-and-Building-Safety/Pages/Public-School-Inspection-Program.aspx>

## BECOME A QUALIFIED PUBLIC SCHOOL INSPECTOR

**COST: FREE**

### REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS

(any one of the following)

OSFM Fire Officer I, II  
OSFM Company Fire Officer  
OSFM Advanced Fire Officer  
OSFM Fire Prevention Officer  
OSFM Basic Fire Prevention Officer  
OSFM Advanced Fire Prevention  
Officer  
NFPA/ICC/OSFM Fire Inspector I  
[See link for Info on Tier 2 Program](#)

### REGISTER

Send the following info to  
[Kensie.Proctor@illinois.gov](mailto:Kensie.Proctor@illinois.gov)

- your name,
- your department name,
- a copy of your qualifying certificate
- signed letter from Chief
- a list of public schools (with addresses) in your district

### QUESTIONS OR TO REGISTER?

[Kensie.Proctor@illinois.gov](mailto:Kensie.Proctor@illinois.gov)  
or 217-785-4714

## IFSI Minute

### AN UPDATE FROM THE ILLINOIS FIRE SERVICE INSTITUTE

A few items from the IFSI Team during these busy spring months.



### **A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR:**

**NEW ACADEMY OFFERING:** Spring/Early Summer Fire Academy

I wanted to send a personal message to all Illinois departments regarding an upcoming training opportunity. In recent weeks, the Illinois Fire Service Institute (IFSI) has received inquiries into the availability of a late spring/summer Fire Academy offering. Due to critical staffing shortages, many departments are concerned about waiting until fall when our next traditional training cycle begins. *The role of IFSI is clear – we are here to support the Illinois fire service.* As such, we have reviewed options for an upcoming Academy class and will make the following accommodations available for departments needing immediate training:

#### **Spring/Summer Fire Academy**

Start Date: May 9, 2022

End Date: June 30, 2022

Tuition: \$6900

Minimum Enrollment: 18

Maximum Enrollment: 24

Deadline for confirmed registration: April 18, 2022

While we understand the timing of this announcement leaves only a few short weeks for registration and preparation, I would be remiss if we did not make every effort to support state fire departments with critical and emergent staffing and training needs. We hope this offering will ensure training is available for departments needing our support.

If you are interested in registering members of your department for this class or have questions about the program or schedule, please reach out to the IFSI Academy Program Director, Steve Doggett, at [sdoggett@illinois.edu](mailto:sdoggett@illinois.edu) or 217-300-5492.

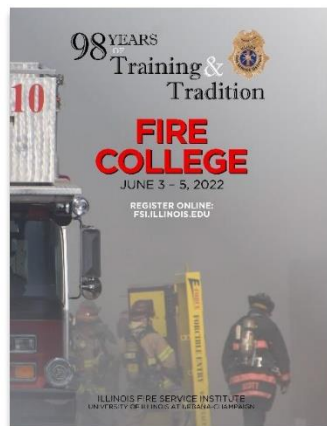
Best regards,

**Jim Keiken**

Director

### **SUMMER SPECIAL EVENTS:**

Registration for the 2022 summer training events opens April 15! We look forward to returning to the traditional four-day format for the Explorer Cadet Fire School and have modified our Annual Fire College to meet the scheduling needs of attendees. Online registration is strongly encouraged: [fsi.illinois.edu](http://fsi.illinois.edu).





## Illinois CRR Taskforce



*Members from the State of Illinois CRR Taskforce (Left to Right): Phil Zaleski, IFSA Director; Marsha Giesler, IL CRR Project Manager; Cheri Breneman, IAFPD Director; and Robert Morris, IFIA Executive Director*

*Members from the State of Illinois CRR Taskforce were in attendance at the Illinois Fire Inspectors Fire and Life Safety Conference in East Peoria. The taskforce had a booth and was able to show off it's new materials and share information with attendees at the conference. The group continues to work on the statewide risk assessment and meets monthly. This taskforce is a collaboration of all 14 Illinois Fire Service organizations in the state.*

*The mission of the group is to promote the importance of Risk Reduction in Illinois by inspiring community ownership and providing coordinated resources.*

*To learn more about the Illinois Community Risk Reduction Taskforce visit their website at [illinoiscr.com](http://illinoiscr.com) and follow them on facebook @illinoiscr.*



## Somonauk Outreach Seminar

# The Somonauk Fire Department in conjunction with the Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal

## PRESENT

Recertification Procedures & Recertification Task Book Review

State Vector Solutions Enterprise Platform Use & Review

Bring your computer & questions!

## WHEN & WHERE

Tuesday, April 12, 2022

10:00-1:00

Somonauk Fire Department  
145 W. DeKalb, Somonauk, IL

**Seating is limited**

Please RSVP to Aaron Grandgeorge at

[agrandge@mountprospect.org](mailto:agrandge@mountprospect.org)



## Monmouth Outreach Seminar

# The Monmouth Fire Department in conjunction with the Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal

## PRESENT

Recertification Procedures & Recertification Task Book Review

State Vector Solutions Enterprise Platform Use & Review

Bring your computer & questions!

## WHEN & WHERE

Tuesday, May 10, 2022

10:00-1:00 & 4:00-7:00

Monmouth Fire Department, Station 1  
601 Industrial Park Drive, Monmouth, IL

**Seating is limited**

Please RSVP to Chris Bednarek at

[christopher.bednarek@illinois.gov](mailto:christopher.bednarek@illinois.gov)





**Romeoville Outreach Seminar**

**The Romeoville Fire Academy**  
in conjunction with the  
**Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal**

**PRESENT**

**Recertification Procedures & Recertification Task Book Review**

**State Vector Solutions Enterprise Platform Use & Review**

**Bring your computer & questions!**

**WHEN & WHERE**

**Tuesday, July 12, 2022**

**9:00-12:00**

**Romeoville Fire Department, Station 3  
698 N. Birch Lane, Romeoville, IL**

**Seating is limited**

**Please RSVP to Megan Murphy at**

**[mmurphy@romeoville.org](mailto:mmurphy@romeoville.org)**



## EV Charging Safety

*There are over 1 million electric vehicles (EVs) on the road in the United States. President Biden's executive order, calling for the federal government to try to ensure that half of all vehicles sold in the United States be electric by 2030, ensures that number will increase significantly in the coming years.*

*Help keep residents in your community safe from fire and electric shock related to charging EVs by sharing these safety tips.*

*Before buying an EV, have a qualified electrician install:*

*A new, dedicated circuit for your EV charging device. Older home wiring may not be suitable for use with EV supply equipment.*

*A Level 2 charging device (if that is your preferred charging method).*

*Cover the EV charging station outlet to stop water from entering. Check the manufacturer's guidelines to make sure it is safe to charge your EV in wet conditions.*

## Electric Vehicle Charging Safety Tips

**Are you thinking of buying an electric vehicle (EV)? Here are steps you can take to lower your risk of fire and electric shock injury related to charging EVs.**

### Before buying an EV, have a qualified electrician install:

- A new, dedicated circuit for your EV charging device. Older home wiring may not be suitable for use with EV supply equipment.
- Level II charging devices (if that is your preferred charging method).



### Charging EVs:

- Follow manufacturer's guidelines when charging your vehicle. Check with your local dealer if you need additional information.
- Purchase a charging device that is certified by a nationally recognized testing laboratory.
- Plug Level I EV chargers directly into an outlet designed to handle the amperage of the charging device. Never use a multiplug adapter or extension cord.
- Install a residual current device with the charging unit. It will turn off the power if a fault is detected and help prevent a fire.
- Place all charging device components out of reach of children when not in use.
- Maintain the components of your charging station according to the manufacturer's maintenance guidelines. Signs of excessive wear may indicate a potential shock hazard. Never use an EV charger with obvious signs of damage.
- Cover the EV charging station outlet to stop water from entering. Check the manufacturer's guidelines to make sure it is safe to charge your EV in wet conditions.

Charging an EV is safe when done with certified equipment. By following these tips, you can lower your risk of having an associated fire or an electric shock injury.

For more information and free resources, visit: [usfa.fema.gov](https://usfa.fema.gov).



Click here to  
add image.



**Spring Cleaning Chemical Safety****DO NOT MIX THESE CLEANING PRODUCTS****BLEACH + VINEGAR**

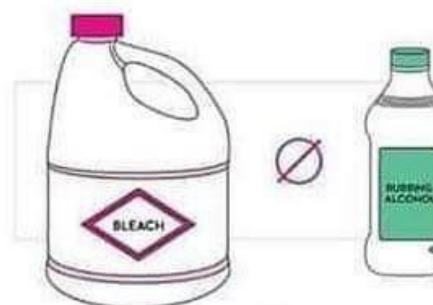
Bleach and vinegar mixture produces chlorine gas, which can cause coughing, breathing problems, burning and watery eyes.

**BLEACH + AMMONIA**

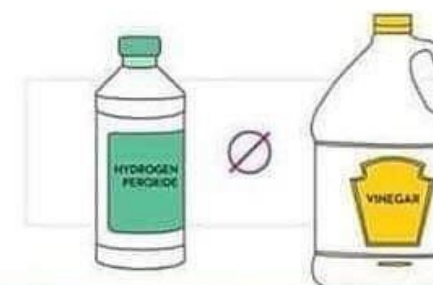
Bleach and ammonia produce a toxic gas called chloramine. It causes shortness of breath and chest pain.

**BLEACH + RUBBING ALCOHOL**

Bleach and rubbing alcohol makes chloroform, which is highly toxic.

**HYDROGEN PEROXIDE + VINEGAR**

This combination makes peracetic/peroxyacetic acid, which can be highly corrosive





## Proper Fuel Containers

### Illinois Regulation Standards



**Red: Required for flammable liquids such as Gasoline**



**Blue: Required for Kerosene**

### Industry Standards, not required in Illinois



**Yellow: Recommended for Diesel**



**Green: Recommended for combustibles like Motor Oil**

### Unapproved Everywhere



**Never use any Unapproved Containers!**



## Shout Outs/Kudos

**YOU  
ROCK**

*Joyce Armstead*

*I very rarely inquire with Joyce, and only when the wait has been extensive just to check it's still on a list and she's great to work with!*

*Ashley T. Kjos*

*Executive II*

*Bureau of Accreditation, Licensure & Certification*

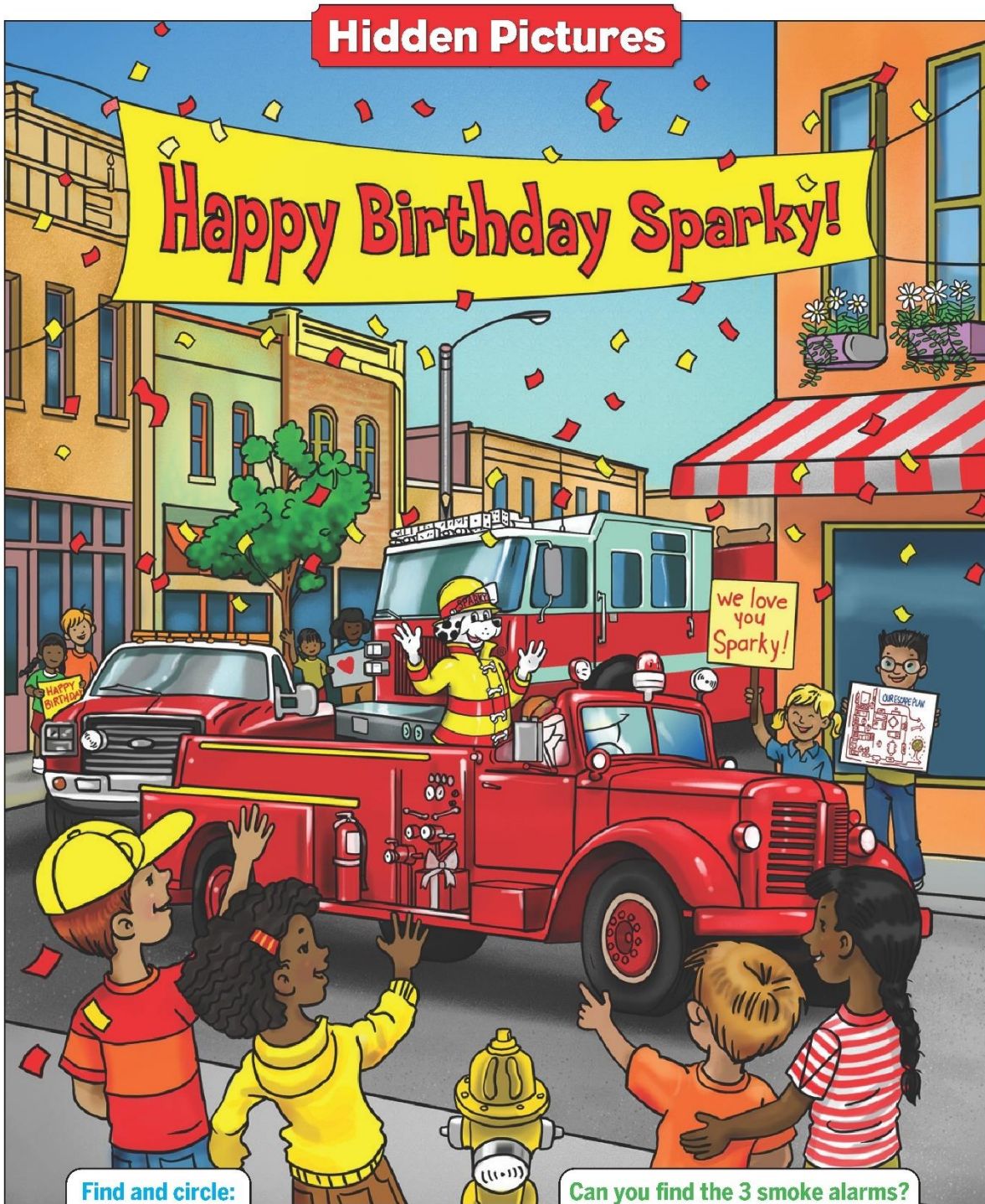


*Members from the OSFM attended a career fair at SHG High School in Springfield on March 30<sup>th</sup>. They talked to students about the diverse career opportunities that OSFM has to offer.*

*Pictured Left to Right: JC Fultz, John Thomas, and Roger Branson*



## Kids' Corner (Happy Birthday Sparky March 19<sup>th</sup>)



**Find and circle:**

- |   |                                       |                                       |   |
|---|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> slice of birthday cake | <input type="checkbox"/> pencil       | <input type="checkbox"/> battery      | <input type="checkbox"/> comb             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> four-leaf clover       | <input type="checkbox"/> pair of dice | <input type="checkbox"/> escape plan  | <input type="checkbox"/> banana           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> hockey stick           | <input type="checkbox"/> dog bone     | <input type="checkbox"/> tea cup      | <input type="checkbox"/> birthday present |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> golf club    | <input type="checkbox"/> birthday hat |   |

**Can you find the 3 smoke alarms?**

- ☐ one  
☐ two  
☐ three



**Kids**

Visit **SPARKY.ORG**

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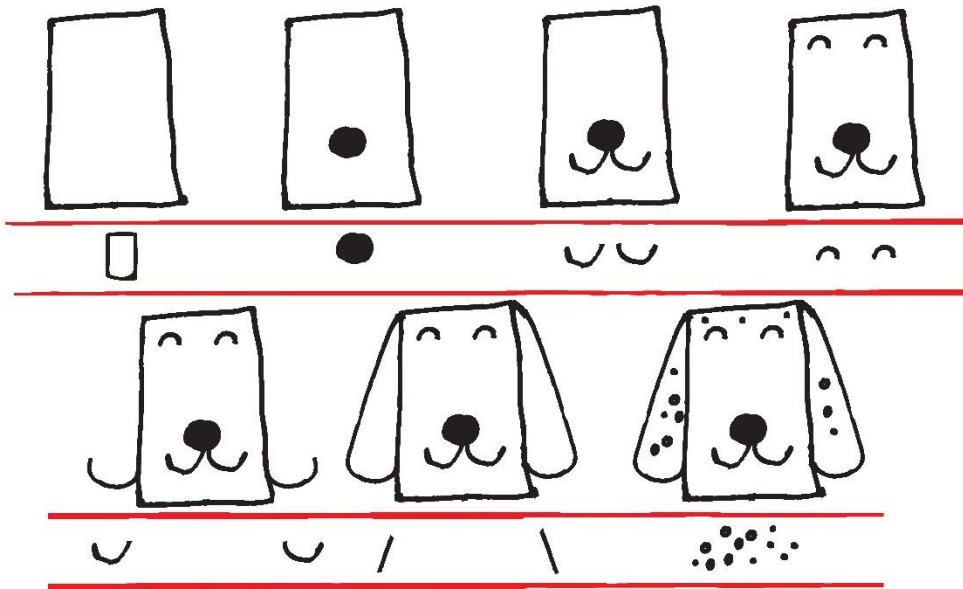
## Kids' Corner



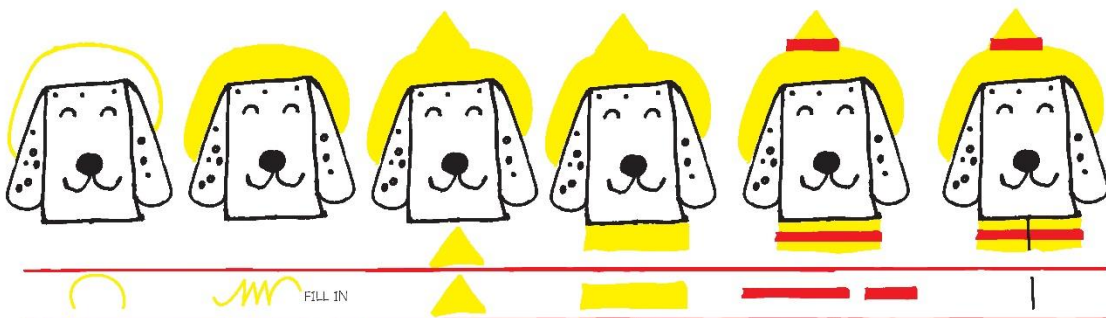
# DRAWING

## A DALMATIAN

by ed emberley



## EXTRA FOR EXPERTS



© ed emberley 2011 More drawing fun at: [edemberley.com](http://edemberley.com)

**CHECK OUT  
SPARKY.ORG  
FOR MORE FUN!**